

Career and Technical Education

As you've probably figured out by now, determining which career is best for you isn't that simple. However, once you've narrowed down your choices, you must then determine the best way to get the education and experience needed to successfully pursue your career goals.

Career and Technical Education might be just what you need. It includes a wide variety of programs that are designed to equip you with work and life skills. As a career and technical education student, you can explore career options, gain insight into a number of fields, prepare for a wide range of occupations, retrain for new jobs, and learn how to improve home and family life. Career and technical education



programs offer concentrated training that prepares you for such diverse careers as agriculture, electronics and computers, retailing, finance, insurance, construction, manufacturing, and small business management. Students who successfully complete these programs are able to find jobs and keep them, advance in careers, and contribute as citizens to their community. Today's workplace is changing like never before. Employers demand that workers have solid skills as well as the ability to adapt to new technology. You're in a position where you'll experience employment challenges your parents never imagined. Advances in information processing, communications, biotechnology, electronics, and more have changed and will continue to change working environments and lifestyles.

Could it be for you?

Ask yourself this question: Do you have the necessary job skills to keep pace with today's rapidly changing technology? If your answer is no, consider the advantages of career and technical education.

Most career and technical education programs combine classroom instruction, laboratory work, on-the-job cooperative work experiences, and participation in student organizations. This combination makes this type of education an exciting prospect as you consider ways to achieve your career goals.

Remember, career and technical education doesn't stop once you get your high school diploma. Many students continue their education beyond high school. A large number of career and technical education graduates enroll in college or choose other post secondary training. High schools as well as vocational-technical centers offer a wide variety of programs that can be categorized as follows:

- Agriscience, including horticulture, production agriculture, environmental science, food science technology, agricultural mechanics, agri-business, biotechnology and landscaping.
- Business Education, including accounting, office occupations and business management programs.
- Health Occupations, such as practical nursing, nursing assistant, dental assistant, medical assistant, and radiologic technician.



- Family and Consumer Sciences, includes food and nutrition services, early education services, community leadership, services to families, and consumer services.
- Marketing Education, including general merchandising, apparel and accessories, real estate, financial services, business and personal services marketing.
- Technical Education furnishes specific preparation for a variety of jobs in such fields as, but not limited to, architectural design, computer-aided drafting and design, communications, information technology, electronics and control systems, bio-related



technology, mechanical and computer control, material processing, manufacturing and transportation. Promoted by systematic technological problem-solving abilities, critical thinking and listening, responsible decision-making, communication and teamwork, creating, inventing and innovating, engineering and building, as well as appropriate risk taking.

- Trade and Industrial Education, which includes a wide range of trades such as auto mechanics, culinary arts, electrical trades, welding and cosmetology.

If you're interested in learning more about vocational education programs, see your school counselor today.

2002-2003 Delaware Career Compass, <http://www.oelmi.net/pub/CARCOMP2003.pdf>

Should I Be a Career and Technical Education Student?

1. Are you seriously thinking about trying to find a job as soon as you leave high school?
2. Do you prefer learning through activities and acquiring general skills that will help you no matter what occupations you work in?
3. Would you be able to learn reading and math skills more easily if you could see how people use those skills in their work?
4. Are you interested in project-based learning rather than book based learning?
5. Is it important that you get some kind of work experience so that you know how to apply what you are learning in school?
6. Are you interested in participating in a student organization that develops leadership skills?
7. Do you need skills that will help you find a part-time job while you continue your education after finishing high school?

If you answered yes to most of these questions, ask your guidance counselor for more information about the career and technical education programs available to you. 2002-2003 Delaware Career

[CARCOMP2003.pdf](http://www.oelmi.net/pub/CARCOMP2003.pdf)

The old adage goes: If you choose a career involving something you love, then you will be happy, healthy and wise. (You stand a pretty good chance of making money too.)

Seven New Rules of the Working World

Changing technology and the vast change in economic conditions have altered the complexion of workforce expectations. Additionally, in the aftermath of downsizing and layoffs in the early 1990s, thousands of Connecticut workers have been thrust into the unenviable position of searching for a new job. Whether we are searching for our very first job, changing jobs, seeking to keep the job we have or trying to earn a promotion, the same set of guidelines apply. While skills and experience are primary qualifications, our ability to adapt to change, to hone our skills and to work as members of a team will enhance our ability to obtain and retain employment. The seven rules of the working world, listed below, are largely supported by feedback from employers. The rules describe the essential characteristics of valuable employees.

Seven New Rules

- **Jack/Jill of All Trades:** The most employable worker is the multi-skilled, versatile worker. Gaining a general knowledge of other work areas in the business leads to better decision making and higher productivity. It also markets you for a variety of positions and responsibilities that will advance your career.
- **Get an Edge, Keep it Sharp:** Identify what you do best and continuously strive to improve upon your skills, particularly in the area of technology.
- **There's no "I" in Team:** Today's workforce is not a battle of "everyone for themselves". It is a partnership of employees who can interact with each other and apply their individual strengths for the good of all.
- **Born to be Wired:** There is no substitute for computer and technology skills. Your ability to understand and adjust to changes in technology will be critical in keeping pace with the occupational shifts that inevitably occur.
- **Watch Your Language:** Communication is a cornerstone of good business and employee relationships. The ability to express oneself clearly and precisely is one of the skills employers value the most. The best way to improve this skill is by thinking before you speak.
- **May I Help You?:** The ability to maintain good customer relations is not only good for business, it is one of the most sought-after skills in any business. This also applies to treatment of co-workers; a kind word or offer of assistance is invaluable.
- **Networking Works:** You will always benefit from building a rapport with people both inside and outside the workplace. This truly is a small world, and there is no doubt that your connections will be good for business as well as your own career goals.



<http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi/misc/svnrules.htm>

When considering your career options, you should always think about:

- What makes you happy?
- What are your goals?
- What are your dreams?